Statement by Deputy Minister for Industries *re*: allegations against the Gur Development Officer, Mysore State Khadi and Village Industries Board, Bangalore.

Sri A. P. APPANNA (Deputy Minister for Industries).—Sir, while answering Question No. 712 on 11th April 1968, I had promised that I would look into certain allegations made against Sri V. S. Hiregowder, Gur Development Officer, Mysore State Khadi and Village Industries Board, Bangalore. The statement, being a lengthy one, I would like to place it on the Table of the House for the reference of the Members.

Sri M. S. KRISHNAN (Malleswaram).—I rise to a point of order. The hon. Deputy Minister Sri A. P. Appanna just now stated that he is laying a statement on the Table here in answer to a question and therefore, the members are entitled to ask Supplementaries on it. In the absence of knowledge of the contents of the Statement, the permission granted to seek clarification on the question would be negatived. The permission was not granted to simply lay a copy of the statement on the Table of the House. The permission implied opportunity to seek clarifications, if any, on the Statement. Therefore, the Statement has to be read by the Deputy Minister, to enable the concerned member to put questions, if any.

Sri K. H. PATIL (Hubli).—I wish to bring to your kind notice that on 11th April 1968 the hon. Deputy Minister Sri Appanna gave reply to Question No. 712. His reply was not satisfactory. Perhaps he was not fully posted with all the facts, relating to the Khadi and Village Industries Board. We do not know whether all the facts contained in the Statement are correct or not. It is better that the House knows everything contained in the Statement instead of merely placing the Statement on the Table. We may have to express our opinion on it. It is better that the hon. Deputy Minister reads his statement in full. If we are not satisfied with it, we can demand from the Speaker to raise an Half-an-hour discussion or some other debate.

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—One other point the hon. Speaker has to examine in this connection. Could the mere fact that the Statement is lengthy, be a ground for placing it on the Table? When it is placed on the Table of course, it becomes the property of the House and the Members are entitled to go through it. If the statement is so lengthy, the hon. Deputy Minister could have prepared cyclostyled copies of it and circulated them to all the members. Otherwise, this procedure may become a precedent. The hon. Speaker will have to examine whether we will be setting up a healthy precedent.

Sri M. S. KRISHNAN.—I want to add something more to my point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER.—There is no force in the point of order. So, the hon. Member need not add anything more to it.

(MR. SPEAKER)

As regards the point raised by Sri Siddaveerappa, I have no doubt in my mind that the Statement has to be read. The hon. Deputy Minister stated that he was not reading it because it was a lengthy one and that he would place it on the Table. Of course, that should not be taken as a precedent. In order to save time and help the Members, I shall have copies of the Statement cyclostyled and get them circulated. Will that satisfy the Members? I shall do it in the course of today or tomorrow.

SRI K. H. PATIL.—I am of opinion that it should be read.

MR. SPEAKER.—Then, Hon. Deputy Minister Sri Appanna may please read it.

SRI A. P. APPANNA.—Sri, Sri V. S. Hiregowder, the then Gur Development Officer tendered his resignation on 1st May 1964. But, his resignation was not accepted by the Board.

Meanwhile, a note was circulated by the Secretary, Khadi Board on 14th May 1964 to the Accounts Officer, Additional Accounts Officer, Chief Executive Officer, Office Manager and Superintendent, Establishment Section, stating that Sri V. S. Hiregowder has requested that he may be permitted to resign from 1st June 1964. These Officers were requested to indicate if there were any dues to be paid by Sri V. S. Hiregowder to the Board, accounts to be settled or any case of departmental enquiry pending against him.

A note was submitted to the Board by the Secretary after receipt of information from the Accounts Department. This note was considered by the Board as subject No. 25 during their meeting held on 11th June 1964 and resolution No. 175 of the Board dated 11th May 1964 was passed resolving that the resignation tendered by Sri V. S. Hiregowder cannot be accepted, as it is understood that he is not working in the office, after submitting his resignation. Therefore, the Board resolved to place him under suspension and it was further resolved to address the Anti-corruption Department with a view to launch prosection and such other action against Sri V. S. Hiregowder to recover the amounte which are due from him (Extract of the Resolution is appended herein).

The Officer was not absent as stated in the Board Resolution. Perhaps the Board was misled on the above issue. A Memo of placing the officer under suspension was under issue, but it could not be issued as the matters were clarified by some of the Board members. The following were the items for which Sri V. S. Hiregowder, the then Gur Development Officer had to account for advances taken by him as Gur Development Officer :

1	Account for Rs. 100 reported to have been paid on 15th November 1960.	The Accounts Officer has stated in his note dated 14th May 1964 that this amount was advanced to Sri V. S. Hiregowdar to meet the contingent expenditure

		on crushers. When the matter was enquired into with reference to the facts, it was found that no such advance was in fact paid to Sri V. S. Hiregowder. Therefore, the Accounts Officer has remarked that this may be dropped.
2	Accounts for Rs. 1,500 released on 20th March 1961 towards demonstration of Gur and Khandasari in Congress Exhibition.	The officer has rendered accounts on 2nd March 1962.
3	Accounts for Rs. 450 released on 9th May 1961 towards delivery of crushers.	The accounts rendered by the officer on 17th September 1964.
4	Accounts for Rs. 5,000 sanctioned during 1961 towards arrangement for the Honorary workers' training classes.	Out of this Rs. 5000, 2 Honorary workers training classes were conducted during 1961 and 1962. Out of this amount the Officer had given advance to the Asst. Inspectors for conducting classes for whieh they have rendered accounts. The remaining balance has been remitted by the then Officer to the office. The Accounts are under audit.
5	Statement of suspense account as on 15th January 1963.	Enquiry was conducted in this behalf. A copy of the Enquiry Officer's report enclosed herewith wherein this officer is not responsible for any irregularity.
6	Working out statement showing particuars with regard to cash on hand with the Gur Develpment Officer for remittance.	This has been attended to and the cash on hand with reference to cash book is remitted to the Accounts Department of the Board.
7 & 8	Furnishing of information regarding remittance of pending arrears accounts.	All the accounts for the advances recei ved by the officer have been rendered.
9	Recovery towards machinery and enquipment.	A sum of Rs. 1,193-40 was paid as demurrage charges. This amount was ordered to be deducted from the amount payable to Nahan Foundry to the extent of Rs. 19,323-28.

(SRI. A. P. APPANNA)

10	Payment of demurrages yearwise.	Demurrages were paid on account of wrong despatch by the firm *i.e*, Nahan Foundry. Therefore, all the demurrage charges were proposed to be recovered from the payment, to be made to Nahan Foundry.
11	Accounting for Rs. 5000 advanced for participation in Visweswaraiah Museum Exhibition on 9th May 1961.	He has rendered accounts for these amounts on 5th October 1963. Out of Rs. 5,000, Rs. 2,000 was released to the Saranjam Karyalaya directly for which this officer is not responsible.

Thus it could be seen that this officer has rendered all the accounts for the advances he has drawn. The Anti-corruption Department was not addressed as there was no necessity of addressing the same as the accounts were rendered by him and there was no criminal misappropriation of breach of trust. He has not misappropriated any amount, hence the question of recovery does not arise.

The resignation tendered by the above referred officer was accepted with effiect from 1st May 1965 as he has given an undeataking agreeing to pay any amount *i. e.* finally adjudged as recoverable amount against him and the action taken in accepting the resignation with effect from 1st May 1965 was ratified by the Board *vide* Resolution No. 622 dated 23rd September 1966 (copy of the resolution appended).

Sri V. S. Hiregowder cannot be blamed on any count and that he cannot be charged with any inculpatory behaviour. Even the enquiry officer who conducted the preliminary enquiry has come to the conclusion that in his over enthusiasm Sri Hiregowder did not exercise sufficient care to ensure, that the elementary rules of prudence and office procedure were adhered to, that there were no amounts outstanding against him and no action was also called for.

In view of the above circumstances, it is obvious that Sri V. S. Hiregowder is not guilty of any misappropriation nor can he be accused of any really blameworthy behaviour.

Sri Hiregowder is no more in service in the Board. It is already three years since he has left the post. There are no sufficient reasons to proceed against him. The question of taking further action is proposed to be dropped and the matter treated as closed.